

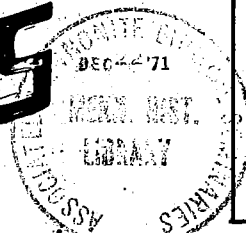
DECEMBER, 1971

THIS IS A
CALL TO PRAYER
FOR
THE LORD'S WORK
IN
COLOMBIA

COLOMBIAN NEWS

Colombia, South America

NUMBER SIXTY

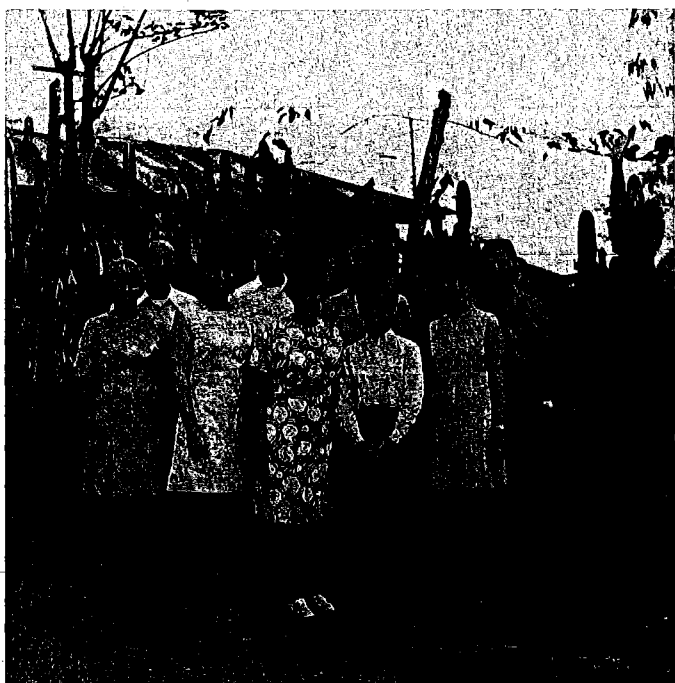


INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

CHRISTMAS 1971 GIVING AND RECEIVING

As Christmas time approaches, there are desires and anticipations in the minds of all, young and old alike. Much time, effort and money is spent to make these a reality.

But what really is uppermost in our minds? Christmas comes and goes and we talk about what we did, ate, received, etc. Do we ask ourselves, "What have I given?" God so loved He gave His Son. This love and giving is a continuous offer which we experience so graciously in our daily life. But have we given the gift God wants, our bodies (Romans 12:1)? Does His love constrain us to give and also keep on giving of that which we have so that others may receive the gift of salvation from the Lord? "Freely you have received, freely give."



May the real joy of giving and not only of receiving be ours throughout the year as we present to God what He really wants the most--the best gifts of all for all. As a Colombian staff, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We appreciate your continuing support and urge each of you to send your contributions to Newton.

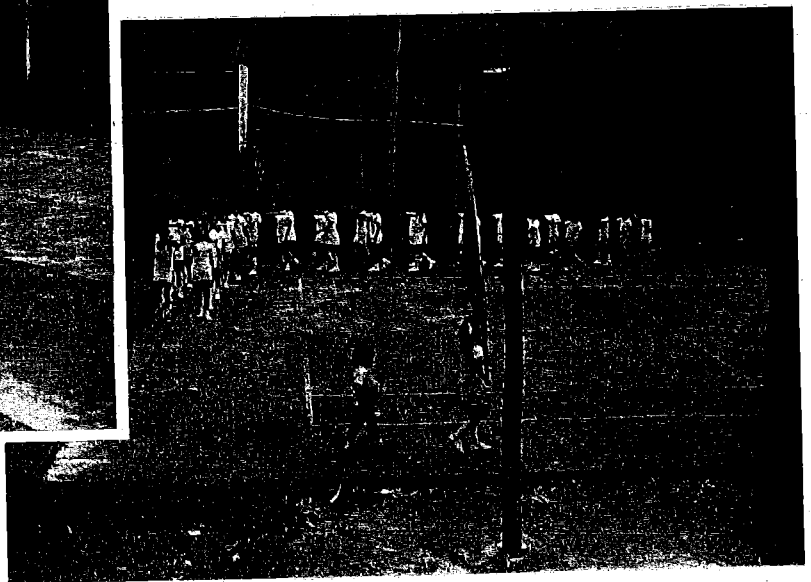
VOLUNTEERS SERVE IN EDUCATION

On September 1, Dave and Nedra Steury began their second year of service as teachers in the Colegio Nueva Granada in Bogota. Dave teaches high school Algebra and Physics and Nedra teaches Grade 2. CHG is a bi-national and bi-lingual school for Colombians and foreigners. There are 1,300 students. The three Klaassen boys attend there. Dave and Nedra are also active in the Bogota Mennonite Church, singing in the choir and Nedra teaches a Sunday school class. Dave is presently the Sunday school superintendent.

SCHOOL CHILDREN AT PLAY

Even sports days offer opportunity for the ceremony which Latin Americans love. At a recent match between the La Mesa and Cachipay schools, the day's activities were begun by special formations prepared by the competing teams.

There followed a day of fun and excitement as the children competed in dashes for each age group, basketball, volleyball, ping-pong, and last of all, the favorite, football.



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SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM INITIATED

With the completion of the dining hall at Cachipay, concern grew for another community need - proper nutrition of the children. That most of the school children were not eating properly became apparent upon careful observation. Since the school is located one mile from Cachipay, the children would either run home for lunch, bring a small lunch to school or go without. Many of the children showed signs of malnutrition.



Consequently, at the end of August a school lunch program was initiated. CARE has donated flour, powdered milk and oil. Meals including meat, vegetables, milk and bread have been served for the equivalent of seven-and-a-half cents daily. Children from the neighboring community school are also participating in the program.

These have been months of experimentation, improving services and organization, ironing out difficulties. It is still too early to properly evaluate the success of the program, but there are two favorable signs. One is the way the Parents-Teachers Association is taking the initiative and making plans to begin a garden to supply more vegetables for the meals. Another is best illustrated by a comment overheard recently, "Have you noticed how fat the children are becoming?"

MENNONITE BRETHREN EXECUTIVES VISIT BOGOTA

Rev. Vernon Wiebe and Rev. J. H. Epp from Hillsboro, Kansas, visited with Armando Hernandez and Glendon Klaassen in Bogota the 20th of August. The informal meeting was a time of Christian fellowship and of sharing common interest in mission. The Mennonite Brethren Mission witness is in the western part of Colombia, quite separated geographically from the General Conference Church program. There is interest, however, on the part of both groups in some type of cooperative efforts in the future.



EPP, HERNANDEZ AND WIEBE

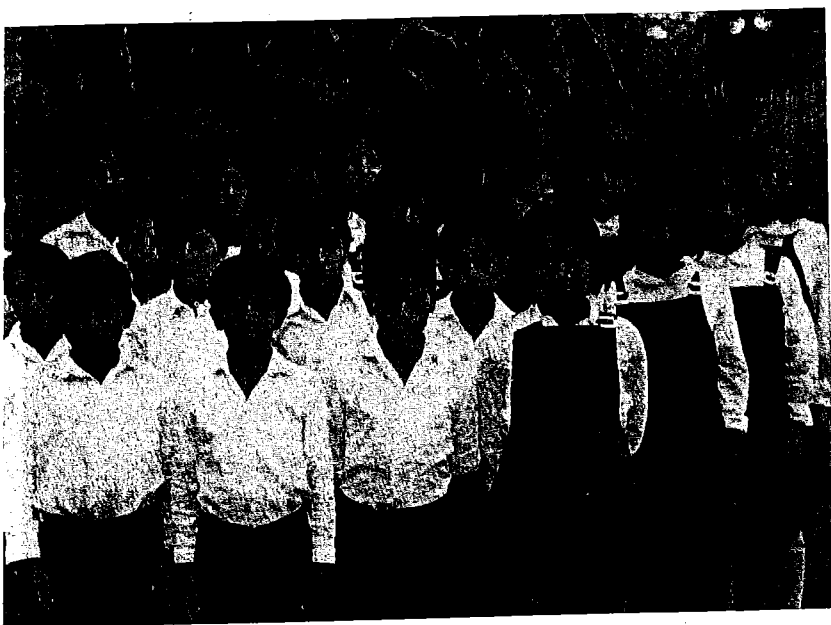
COMMENCEMENT FOR FIFTH GRADERS

end of November is school closing time Colombian schools. Fifth grade children are excited because this means graduation from primary school. Since the majority of Colombian children never complete high school, grade school graduation becomes very important to them. This includes a special class trip plus a final graduation program with a special speaker. The church school in La Mesa, Colegio Menno, has 20 graduates. They are shown with their teacher and school directress, Miss Virginia Terreros.



CACHIPAY SCHOOL GROUP

The church school in Cachipay, Colegio Americano, has 12 children finishing. They are shown with their teacher, Miss Elisa Prieto, who graduated from the same school in 1963 and completed high school last year. We're thankful for this opportunity to educate Colombian youth and to point them to Christ.



LA MESA SCHOOL GROUP

WELCOME VISITORS

Special visitors to Colombia were the Harvey Rempel family from Hutchinson, Kansas, and Mr. Fred Hildebrand from Inman, Kansas. Mr. Hildebrand came to visit his nephew, George Ediger, who is also a cousin of Mrs. Velma Rempel. We hope they enjoyed their visit.

NEW WORKERS

Lewis and Judy Sprunger have arrived in San Jose, Costa Rica, for language study before coming to Colombia. They will be working in Bogota. Lewis is a pediatrician and will work with the Christian Emmanuel Clinic. Judy is a teacher. They expect to arrive here in the latter part of April.

NEW WORKERS ARRIVE

On September 29 Larry and Edith Tschetter arrived from Costa Rica, where they studied Spanish for several months, to begin their service in Cachipay. Both come from the Freeman, South Dakota area and, by upbringing and training, fit in well in the activities of the school and community development programs in the rural Cachipay area. Larry works especially in the agricultural programs plus helping with general mechanics and upkeep. Edith's activities include teaching and bookkeeping.

A new project to help the school and campgrounds to become more self-sustaining are the honey-bees. The picture shows Larry enticing some escaped bees into a hive. There may be about 30,000 bees in the cluster.



LA MESA CHURCH PURCHASES PARSONAGE



Recently, the Mennonite Church Extension Services board granted a loan to the La Mesa Church for obtaining their parsonage. The church purchased a large lot with a half-finished house. The church is finishing the house and hopes to have it ready in December. Pastor Daza and family are already living there and doing much of the work in fixing it up. Though the repayment of the loan will be a heavy responsibility for the church for a number of years, the investment will be a great help toward the stability and independence of the La Mesa Church fellowship.

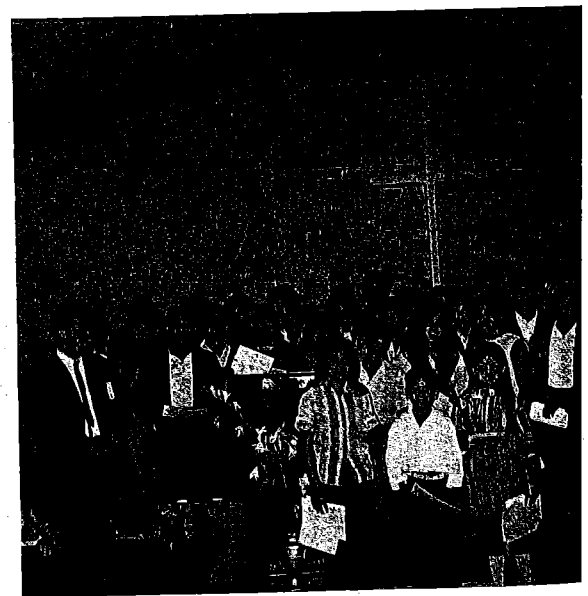
COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT VISITS USA



Rev. Armando Hernandez, president of the Mennonite Mission and Church of Colombia, was in the States from September 23 to October 14. His trip was sponsored mainly by Mennonite Broadcasts, Inc., as Armando was the Latin American delegate to their board meetings in Harrisonburg, Virginia. After these meetings, the Commission on Overseas Missions sponsored his visiting various churches in Pennsylvania, Indiana and Kansas. Armando also spoke at Goshen, Hesston and Bethel Colleges and at the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries at Elkhart, Indiana. The picture shows him with Dr. Howard Habegge at Central Office as they spoke of common concerns of the North and South.

FURTHER TRAINING THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

The traditional Sunday worship and Sunday school programs, plus a mid-week service, generally do not adequately prepare the average Christian for active participation in the mission of the church. One help is through correspondence courses. Over a year ago a center for such studies was set up in Bogota with Mr. Jorge Manrique as director. Pastor Alfonso Castro of the Cachipay church has encouraged his congregation to participate in this form of study. On October 10 a group of 35, both young and old, received their first certificates of study, having completed the course on the gospel of John. The special service was one of great inspiration and joy, and many of the congregation plan to continue with the next course on the book of Acts. The church, as a result, feels a new sense of joy and meaning as individuals and even entire families take discipleship more seriously. Congratulations are in order to Mr. Castro for encouraging this advance toward spiritual maturity.



NEW ADDITIONS!

On September 1, David Eduardo was born to Pastor Polidoro Daza and Mrs. Leona Schrag Daza. Congratulations! The Dazas work in La Mesa.



On October 4, Diego Alexander was born to Pastor Alfonso Castro and Mrs. Lilia Lopez Castro. They work in Cachipay. Congratulations! We wish these families much joy and God's richest blessings.

LOCAL OUTREACH EVANGELISM

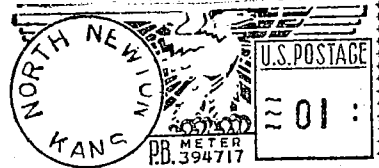
The Anolaima church, led by Pastor Luis Lugo, is active in sharing their Christian witness. Weekly they hold preaching services and Bible studies in La Florida and in Reventones. In September the church went on a house to house campaign in these places plus in Anolaima offering Bible portions and other Christian literature, along with their personal testimonies. In the evenings open air services were held and Christian films were used. The picture shows a group of the Anolaima Christians leaving the church with their pastor. The Ibague church, led by their pastor, Jaime Caro, is active in similar efforts. They recently had evangelism campaigns in several of the city's suburbs and also at a large military base with some 800 soldiers attending.



COLOMBIAN NEWS
General Conference Mennonite Church
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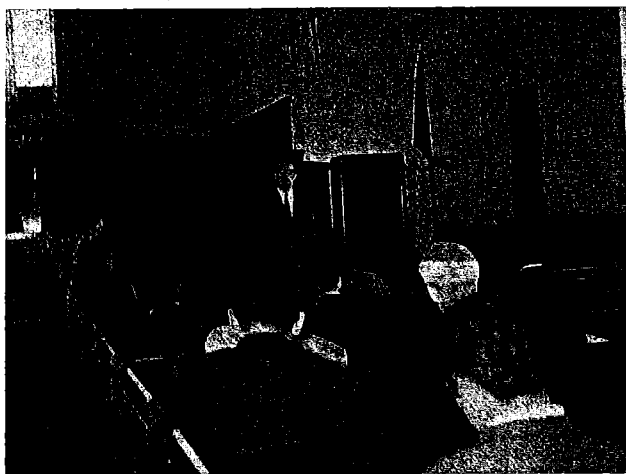
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MENNONITE THEOLOGIAN VISITS COLOMBIA

Dr. John Howard Yoder, president of Goshen Biblical Seminary, with his family visited in Bogota and Cachipay in early August. The Yoders had spent a year in Buenos Aires and Montevideo participating in theological education in Latin America. In Bogota Dr. Yoder spoke at an inter-denominational pastors' meeting and in Cachipay he shared with Mennonite teachers and pastors, leading in discussions on the meanings of discipleship and the mission of the church. His visit was much appreciated.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

- PRAISE GOD for the safe arrival of Larry and Edith Tschetter and for their willingness to serve in Cachipay.
- PRAISE GOD for young pastors who are actively leading their congregations in outreach programs.
- PRAISE GOD for His blessing in the three church schools during the schoolyear just ended.
- PRAISE GOD for the granting of the visas for the Claassens.
- PRAISE GOD for the joy and meaning of this Christmas and for the opportunities of sharing this with others.
- PRAY FOR Martha Caro, daughter of Pastor Jaime and Disney Caro of the Ibague Mennonite Church. She suffers from severe convulsions and retardation.
- PRAY FOR Mark and Lillian Claassen studying Spanish in San Jose, Costa Rica.
- PRAY FOR Lewis and Judy Sprunger studying Spanish in San Jose, Costa Rica.
- PRAY FOR a pastor for the Bogota Mennonite Church.
- PRAY FOR visas for Lewis and Judy Sprunger for entrance into Colombia next April.